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ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for dialing a number from a directory for a communication terminal. The system is responsive to one or more digits entered by the user using a key pad for the communication terminal. The entered digits are stored as a string and compared to the entries stored in the directory. The entries in the directory comprise a directory number and may include a name associated with the directory number. The entered digits are compared to both the directory numbers and the names for each of the directory entries. Matches on either the directory numbers and/or the names are retrieved and displayed for the user. Using a navigation key, the user is able to select one of the retrieved directory entries and dial the number by going off-hook. If more than one directory entry is matched, additional digits may be entered by the user to narrow the list of retrieved entries. Once a single directory entry is matched, the number is dialed by going off-hook.